

CHILDREN DRAW EACH OTHER

in celebration of Ambedkar Jayanti 2013

These days, children are often taught that learning is just a matter of copying and remembering. But if that is true, then how will the world ever progress? How will inequality and discrimination ever be ended? Children need to learn to think and act in new ways in order to help change the world and improve society. Children need to be encouraged to look around and ask questions - and search for new answers.

Even in art classes, children are usually asked to just copy typical pictures or draw the usual things from memory. However, we think that art is actually an important way for all children to express themselves and to investigate their lives, their society, and their environment, and to communicate their ideas and feelings. Art is a means of self-expression. Art is much more than just learning techniques to copy pictures.

Art competitions are held in order to select a few winners. But if there are only a few winners, that means that most children will be losers. We do not want any child to be a loser. We think that such competition is not necessary in art.

We want to give all children the opportunity to be creative - observe and draw what they see, from their own perspective.

Therefore, we asked each pair of children to make portraits of each other. They were asked to look carefully at their friend, observe the details, and draw what they see.







Aishwarya by Shruti







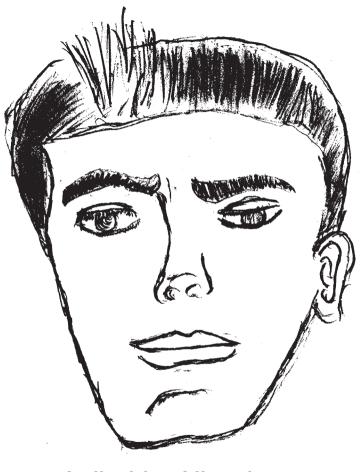
Sidhdant by Harshul



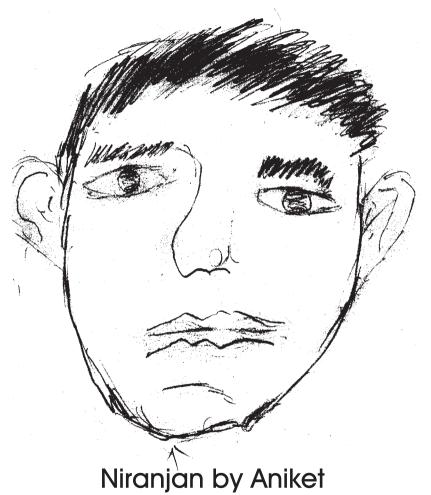
Harshul by Sidhdant







Aniket by Niranjan









Pallavi by Pranali



Pranali by Prallavi









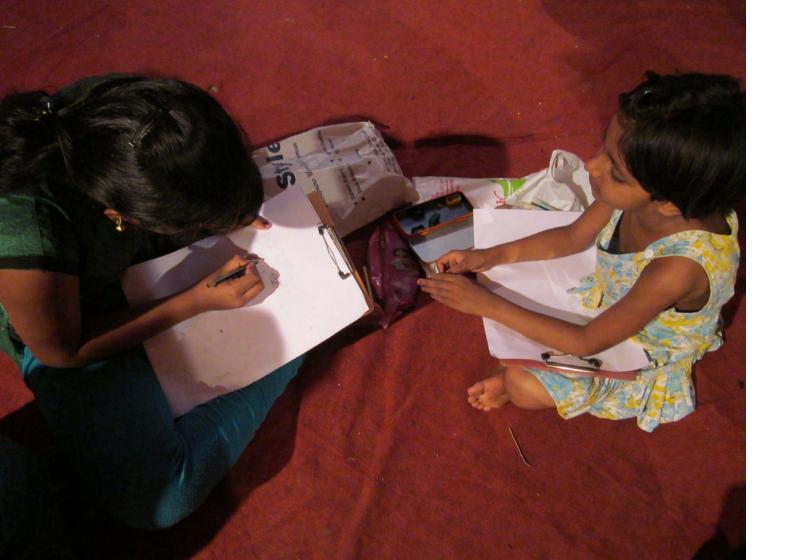
Sumedh by Sarvesh





Pryanka by Prabhanjali











Annvick by Shantanu

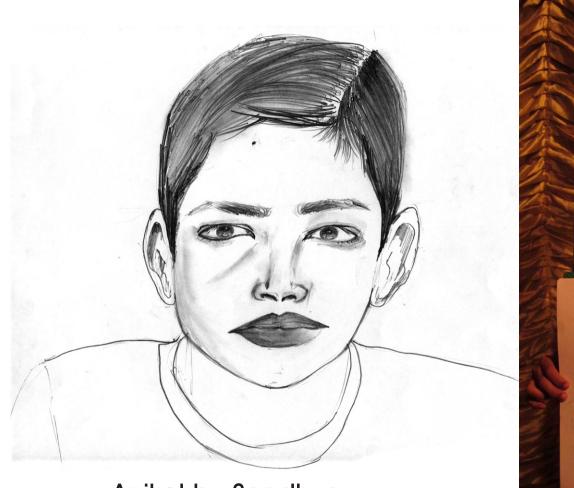








Sandhya by Aniket



Aniket by Sandhya

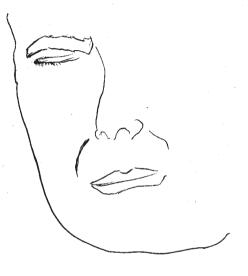


We are very happy to see the hard work children have done to make these portraits. As you can see, all children have their own unique ways of seeing, understanding, and expressing themselves. Each picture is different. Each picture says something not only about the way the child looks, but about the personality of the child.

Through these portraits we can find expressions of children understanding and appreciating each other. We find children being free to be children and draw as children draw, not as an adult tells them they must draw.

Learning to do art is hard work, but it is our hope that through art, children learn self-respect, confidence, and recognition. Rather than becoming copying machines or ciphers, children need to become more free to express themselves. To quote, Dr. Ambedkar:

"It is disgraceful to live at the cost of one's self-respect. Self-respect is the most vital factor in life. Without it, [a person] is a cipher. To live worthily with self-respect, one has to overcome difficulties. It is out of hard and ceaseless struggle alone that one derives strength, confidence and recognition."



13 April, 2013 New Mandala, Anushaktinagar

